

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126052
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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UNCLAS STATE 126052

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 963 ACTION LECSTATE AND USUN
INFO BONN, DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LAGOS, LONDON, LUSAKA,
MAPUTO, OTTAWA, PARIS, AND PRETORIA DATED MAY 14, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 963

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: S,PDEV, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: COMMENTS BY DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MAY 13, WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON
STATEMENT OF MAY 11 BY DEPT OF STATE SPOKESMAN, DEFENSE
MINISTER BOTHA SAID THE FOLLOWING:
QUOTE: NO SELF RESPECTING COUNTRY CAN ALLOW ITSELF TO BE
DICTATED TO FROM OUTSIDE. IF EVER SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEREST
WITHIN THE
REPUBLIC OR THE INTEGRITY OF OUR BORDERS ARE JEOPARDIZED WE
SHALL STRIKE BACK. AS LONG AS WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY
OF SOTH WEST AFRICA AND ITS PEACE LOVING PEOPLES WE SHALL
WITHSTAND ANY ATTEMPTS TO CREATE CHAOS. UNQUOTE

2. DEFENSE SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH OPPOSITION PARTIES AGAIN
SUPPORTED SOUTH AFRICA'S RIGHT TO MAKE RETALIATORY RAIDS AS
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IN THE CASE OF THE MAY 4 INCIDENT. PFP SPOKESMAN HARRY SCHWARZ
WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING, "I REALIZE THE POLITICAL
RISKS, BUT WHILE THESE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES CONTINUE, AT
LEAST HOT PURSUIT CAN BE JUSTIFIED BOTH IN LAW AND MORALLY."

3. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO MAY 13 PRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN
MINISTER BOTHA SAID HE HAD READ PRESIDENT BONGO'S RECENT

STATEMENT ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE WITH GREAT INTEREST. BOTHA SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT AGREE FULLY WITH THE STATEMENT, "IT CONTAINS SEVERAL POSITIVE ELEMENTS WHICH GIVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT IS SHOWING A REALISTIC APPROACH, WHICH COULD HOPEFULLY BE BUILT ON TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." AS FAR AS WALVIS BAY IS CONCERNED, BOTHA SAID, "I REPEAT AGAIN THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS PREPARED TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA."
NELSON UNQUOTE VANCE

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